remaining portion of alcohol and the aesthetics package to the vessel containing the nearly completed solution. Allow the composition to reside in the mixing vessel, open to the atmosphere for about 10 minutes. Mix until homogeneous and filter through a US #100 mesh sieve. Fill chewable soft gellatin capsules using the above formulation. Said gelatin capsules are available from the trade by companies such as R. P. Scherer, of St. Petersberg, Florida. About 1.84 grams of the elixir is delivered to the mouth by mastication of the capsule(s) and then swallowed.

WE CLAIM:

1. A liquid composition having improved stability comprising a pharmaceutical active, solvent to solubilize said active, and a reducing agent to improve said active stability in said composition.

2. An oral composition having improved stability comprising a pharmaceutical active, solvent to solubilize said active, and a reducing agent to improve said active stability in said composition.

3. The composition according to claim 1 wherein the reducing agent has an E^0 value of greater than -0.119V.

4. The composition according to claim 3 wherein the reducing agent has an E^0 value from about -0.119V to +0.250V.

5. The composition according to claim 4 wherein the reducing agent is selected from the group consisting of the salts of meta bisulfite and bisulfite, including their sodium and potassium salts; dithiothreitol; thiourea; sodium thiosulphate; thioglycolic acid; terbuty hydroquinone (TBHQ); acetyl cysteine; hydroquinone and mixtures thereof.

6. The composition according to claim 5 wherein the reducing agent comprises from about 0.005% to 1.000% of the composition.

7. The composition according to claim 6 wherein the reducing agent comprises from about 0.100% to about 0.01% by weight of the composition.

8. A composition according to claim 5 comprising a pharmaceutical active in an hydrophilic, water-miscible, anhydrous solvent wherein the pharmaceutical active in its un-ionized form has a percent solubility value in the solvent at ambient temperature that is equal to or greater than 0.075% and the pharmaceutical active is in it free, un-ionized form as a monomolecular dispersion in the solvent and said water.

9. The composition according to claim 8 wherein the pharmaceutical actives have a molecular weight of less than 500 grams per mole, is capable of being ionized when in an aqueous solvent and has an octanol-water partition coefficient when in the un-ionized form of at least 100.

10. The composition according to claim 9 wherein the pharmaceutical actives are selected from the group consisting of antitussives, antihistamines, non-sedating antihistamines, decongestants, expectorants, analgesic mucolytics, antipyretic anti-inflammatory agents, local anesthetics and mixtures thereof.

11. The composition according to claim 10 wherein the concentration of pharmaceutical actives in the solvent is less than or equal to 125% of the percent solubility value of said active.

12. The composition according to claim 11 wherein the pharmaceutical active is present in the solvent at a level from about 0.075% to about 25.0% by weight of the composition.

13 The composition according to claim 12 wherein the pharmaceutical active is present in the solvent at a level from about 0.28% to 10.0%.

14. The composition according to claim 13 wherein the solvent comprises from about 60% to about 99.975% by weight of the composition.

15. The composition according to claim 14 wherein the comprises from about 70% to about 99% by weight of the composition.

16. The composition according to claim 15 wherein the solvent comprises from about 85% to about 98% by weight of the composition.

18. The composition according to claim 15 wherein the solvent is hydrophilic, water-miscible, and anhydrous selected from the group consisting propylene glycol, ethanol, poly(ethylene glycol) or PEG, propylene carbonate, diethylene glycol monoethyl ether, poloxamer, glycofurol, glycerol and mixtures thereof.

19. A method for treating respiratory illnesses using the composition of claim 2 wherein the method comprises oral administration of said composition having a total dosage volume of no more than 3.0 mls.

20. The method according to claim 19 wherein the composition is placed against any of the mucosal membranes of the mouth.

add a'

add B3